

Program: NETWORK OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH RESULTS

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Description:

The Network of High Schools with Results (NHSWR) is a project designed to assist Missouri high schools in becoming Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The project began during the 2000–2001 school year and is based on the work of Dr. Rick DuFour, formerly superintendent of Adlai E. Stevenson School District in Illinois. The purpose of the initiative is to bring about sustained, substantive school improvement that will result in better outcomes for all high school students, especially in the area of student performance on the Show-Me Standards. PLCs have six characteristics: 1) Shared mission, vision, values, and goals; 2) Collective inquiry; 3) Collaborative teams; 4) Action orientation/experimentation; 5) Continuous improvement; and 6) Results orientation.

In a PLC, the work in the school is focused on improving student achievement. PLCs continually monitor student learning and develop strategies for helping students who are not learning. Collaborative teams of teachers work together to constantly ask and seek answers to the following three questions:

1. What should students know and be able to do?
2. How will we know if students have learned?
3. What will we do if they have not learned?

Eligible Recipients or Participants:

High schools in Missouri are eligible to participate.

Funds or Grants:

Consultant and meeting costs are paid by the project. Small grants are available to participating schools for networking purposes.

Rationale/Explanation:

A committee of educators and Department representatives attended a U.S. Department of Education conference on reinventing high schools. The committee then met several times to review information and data related to Missouri's high school performance and determined that Missouri needed to do something to help high schools improve. Thus, the NHSWR was initiated to begin addressing comprehensive school reform at the high school level in Missouri. High schools participating in the project were selected based upon their level of commitment to school improvement and willingness to serve as mentors for other Missouri high schools interested in improving. Participating schools are clustered throughout the state to better facilitate networking. Urban, suburban, and rural schools participate in the project. Ongoing professional development by experts in secondary school improvement and in professional learning communities is provided for teams from each participating school. Teams consist of four to six teachers, the principal, and a central office representative. A school improvement expert also serves as an on-site consultant for each school.